State Parks helps save Whidbey Island trail

7.3-acre parcel of land on Whidbey Island that includes Wilbert Trail might have sold to the highest developmentminded bidder had it not been for speedy action taken by a citizens group, a conservancy group, the community and Washington State Parks.

In July, a "for sale" sign went up on a privately owned parcel of land that contains a critical portion of the Wilbert Trail, leading to an ancient cedar tree within a protected old-growth forest inside South Whidbey State Park. That's when the citizens group Save The Trees spread the word to local residents, concerned that if a buyer developed or clear-cut the land, it would compromise the trail and pose a threat to the old-growth forest and access to the cedar.

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust immediately got involved, working with a conservation buyer whose purchase option took the property off the market long enough for the land trust to develop an acquisition and funding strategy that would result in permanent protection.

Washington State Parks approved funds for half of the appraised value of the parcel and all direct costs of the acquisition, a total of \$170,000. Island County agreed to pay \$187,000 using Conservation Futures funds, and the Whidbey Camano Land Trust raised the final \$26,000 through private donations from more than 40 people. The deal closed on Oct. 31, and the property was deeded to State Parks for inclusion into South Whidbey State Park.

Governor's budget boosts **Centennial 2013 plans**

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has expressed excitement and appreciation for Gov. Chris Gregoire's 2007-09 budget proposal for the state park system.

Gov. Gregoire's budget includes \$146 million, direct support for the Centennial 2013 effort, and a boost of 18 full-time staff for State Parks' operating budget. The proposed budget also includes

- Preventive maintenance.
- Replacement of old equipment such as mowers and sewer pumper trucks.
- Care of historic artifacts.
- A second arbor crew to keep parks safe for visitors. Currently, the State Parks budget is \$125.5 million.

In her capital budget for State Parks, Gov. Gregoire proposes \$49.4 million in new funds, a 70 percent increase over the current biennium budget. Most of the proposed funding would be appropriated to take care of parks, facilities and roads, addressing the Centennial 2013 Plan's first priority: "Fix what we have." This priority is focused on enhancing the quality of parks and visitor experiences.

To be adopted, both the Legislature and the Governor must agree on the final budget at the end of session.



Members of Save The Trees, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Washington State Parks and Island County commissioners celebrate the closing of the deal to save the Wilbert Trail property, the new boundary of South Whidbey State Park.

"The citizens of Washington are a big 'hiking step' closer to a healthy future, thanks to the support of Save The Trees, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and Island County," said State Parks Director Rex Derr. "The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is fortunate and grateful to partner in saving the Wilbert Trail. What a joy to steward our islands together like this."

Ice Age Floods plan OK'd

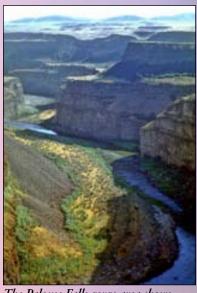
At its November meeting, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission approved the draft plan for interpreting Ice Age Floods in Washington state parks.

During the last Ice Age 13,000 to 15,000 years ago, a series

of catastrophic floods swept across Washington, dramatically altering the landscape, the effects of which are evident in several state parks.

The first phase of the plan, already underway, is the exhibit installations at Dry Falls, Palouse Falls, Ginkgo Petrified Forest, Beacon Rock, Steamboat Rock and Wenatchee Confluence state parks. This phase also includes the creation of an interpreters' guide to the Ice Age Floods for use by staff in the parks along the route of the floods. The first phase of work

parks.wa.gov/centennial2013.



will be completed by June 2007. The Palouse Falls gorge area shows To review the plan, visit www. the dramatic effects of the last Ice Age Floods about 15,000 years ago.

Plan Centennial 2 0 1 3 Recent Endorsements

Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum • Carly Maisch • Nicole Pasura • John and Shari Northcott • David Tufte • Ryan A. Russell • Lawrence Forrester • Charles Barlew • Morgan Wilhelm • Carrie Franks • ury and Pat Norris • Gord Wiebe • John and Rosanne Lloyd • Steve and Bobbie Jones • Carol Shultes • Russ Ideson • Jim Needham • Andrew D. Dahms • VW John • William L. and Sharon J. Self • Dexter Self • Lucas Stiles • Tom Swartz • Monica Rodio • Amy Davis • William Rodio • Mike and Sheri Burns • Steve Johnson • Judy Martin • Ray Martin • Scott Martin • Ann Martin • Edward Wilson • Susan Wilson • Deny McCracken • Phil and Diana Brown • Lori Woodland • Blake Woodland • Robert Cooper • Anthony G. Smith • Kim Smith • R. Craig Smith • Penny Goodman • Deborah Price • Al B. Price • Norrie Walker • Larry and Jeannie Barney • Patrick and Ashley Gordon • Shawn Kemp • Misty Kemp • Ellie Kemp • Bryan Cabatic • Jabin S. Roff • Sarah Polonis • Amarayah Roff • Chris Roff • Karinne Abdo • Linda Jacobsen • Robert Nash • Jim and Marilyn Loaris • Bill Sprague • Mike Lewis • Walter and Cynthia Dent • Jay and Lynda Corbett • Ronald Carlson • Donald Carlson • Bob and Bunny Lucas • Kathie Maxwell • John Lzke • Jo Ann Smith • Mike and Coca Krause • Don Martinson • James L. Bishop • Lynn Falker • Jerry Seeger • Mary and Jim Manning • Glenn and Sis Smith • Charles and Ruth Soldano • Steve and Mary Solberg • Bill and Arlayne Clow • Vicki Hesselbach • Pam Hughley • Dick and Mary Ellen Warrick • Bill McLaughlin • Jim Packard • Laurel LeVene • William LeVene • Molly McBride • Ron and Jane Corona • Ken Sifferman • Oliver Noste • Phil and Carol Rutherford • Vincent Welter • Karen Minard • Dan Rodwill • J.D. Brunkman • Shaun Jones • Mark Hagreen • Mark Hooper • Terri Johnson • Jim Sandford • Marlis Spawn • John Ames • Ben Cozza • Eric Thompson • Scott Douglas • Dean Delker • Bill Greeso • Betty Schiemer • Mimi Stieler • Nadeen Walker • Jim Mullen • Elsie Bautista • Ellen Hill • Ellen Hill • Violet Gasparach • Lynda Cossgirt • Loretta M. Sufer • Pam Loughory • Boe and Suzanne Knaus • Dick and Rochelle Puariea • Cindy Maschner • Bob Patton • E. DeMello

CENTENNIAL 2013 IN ACTION

Man visits 120 state parks in 120 days

A King County computer consultant realized his goal of visiting all of Washington's 120 state parks in 120 days on Nov. 5 at Schafer State Park, the final destination.

Brad Meyer, 35, has a personal tradition of setting numeric travel goals. He called his latest travel project "120x120." He and his wife Kim Colosimo started their staged tour in August and continued it in weekend and holiday segments. Meyer logged more than 5,000 miles in his three-month trek, and he easily met the tour deadline of Dec. 1 with time to spare.

Meyer said he wanted to use his travel idea to help promote state parks and show visitors that there are lots of ways to enjoy the state. Previous travel goals set by Meyer

have included his "50x30" project, to visit all 50 states by the time he reached age 30 (he made it at 28). Another goal on its way to completion is "6x36," his effort to visit six continents by the time he reaches 36.



Brad Meyer (left) was met at Rainbow Falls State Park, the 100th park on his journey, by State Parks Director Rex Derr and his wife, Anne.

"We were out on a hike one day, and I was just talking about exploring the state, and I thought, 'Why not explore it through the state parks?' "Meyer said. "I know it's kind of weird to have these numerical goals for travel, but I have fun with it. I've got an interest in geography, I used to do GIS work and I'm an outdoors person. I love road trips, and I love to explore new places. This travel fits with all my interests. I thought it might be a good way to promote state parks."

Meyer and Colosimo traveled in a modest sedan and visited several parks in a day. He said they like to stop and talk with people in the parks, including rangers and volunteer campground hosts.

"It's fun to talk to the people and find

out more about the places," Meyer said.

To get a glimpse into Meyer's journey, check out his Web site, http://:120.mapfreak.com, which includes pictures, a blog and his list of park highlights.

Staff earn recognition for restoration of estuaries

Five Washington State Parks employees were given the Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Award for estuary restoration work at Belfair and Dosewallips state parks. Parks development region manager Troy Fitzsimmons, environmental planners Lisa Lantz and Deb Petersen, and park rangers Doug Hinton and Joel Pillers were given the award Nov. 17 by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. The council acknowledged State Parks for leading by example to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitats on state lands.

The project at Belfair State Park began this fall with the removal of a tide gate, 20,000 cubic yards of fill and 600 feet of riprap from the Hood Canal shoreline. The remaining riprap along Big Mission Creek will be removed after the salmon run in the spring in what is likely to be a dramatic re-channeling of the creek. This will further

enhance rearing habitat for juvenile salmon, including threatened Hood Canal summer chum salmon. Public access to the shoreline also will be greatly improved.



At Dosewallips State Park, a dike was removed to restore natural tidal circulation across the Dosewallips estuary, which will support the development of healthy salt marsh and tidal channel environments. Blackberry bushes and other invasive species were replaced with native conifers and shrubs that will provide shade to maintain cooler water temperatures and provide for long-term recruitment of large woody debris into the Dosewallips River.

The projects are a partnership with the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, the Skokomish and Port Gamble S'Klallam tribes, Washington Trout, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



Left to right: These before-andafter photos of Belfair State Park show the recontouring of the estuary to a more natural state after removal of 600 feet of riprap and 20,000 cubic yards of fill.

Recent accomplishments and activities in your state parks

Interpretive grants awarded: The State Parks Interpretive Committee, a group of staff that focuses on public education efforts, recently awarded grants for interpretive projects to six state parks. The projects and state parks are: geology interpretive display at Lake Wenatchee; recording digital videos of living history interviews at Deception Pass; interpretive display at Fort Casey; replacement of aging interpretive signs at Peace Arch; new interpretive program equipment for interpretive programs on the beach at Kopachuck and Penrose Point state parks.

Coastal cleanup: State parks along the coast participated in the 35th annual coastal cleanup and Operation Shore Patrol in September, with 725 volunteers working 5,090 hours cleaning 60 miles and collecting 12.5 tons of debris. Washington State Parks manages 60 miles of Washington's Pacific coast. Volunteers contributed more than 280,000 hours in state parks across the state last year.

Arts program receives funding: The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded \$25,000 to Washington State Parks to continue its Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program. The program celebrates Washington's diverse cultures, with summer programs such as Latino

folk arts fiestas, a hip-hop picnic and Native American culture day, and is a partnership with the Washington State Arts Commission.

Saint Edward Seminary joins historic register: The Saint Edward Seminary at Saint Edward State Park in Kenmore has been listed in the Washington Heritage Register. The register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that have been documented as significant in local or state history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture.

Saint Edward playground day: Saint Edward State Park held its annual playground maintenance day in September, when 40 volunteers stained and resealed the wooden playground structure built by the community in 2004. The event is popular with community members who are eager to take care of the much-used park attraction.

Trail update: The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District trails committee is working to complete a trail from the Fort Ward State Park parking area north to Blakely Harbor Park on Bainbridge Island. Work was begun in the fall on the nonmotorized trail, which is just under a mile long, and is expected to be finished in late January.